

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 53.

Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by age and year of application, 1992–2002

Year	Total	Pending final decision	Technical denials ^a	Medical decisions				Award rate ^b (percent)	Allowance rate ^c (percent)
				Denials		Allowances			
				Medical	Subsequent nonmedical ^d	Awards	Subsequent denials ^e		
All ages ^f									
1992	1,828,951	0	134,438	741,839	1,556	860,875	90,243	47.1	56.1
1993	2,048,945	0	141,214	937,757	1,600	878,932	89,442	42.9	50.8
1994	2,014,499	0	123,175	1,041,522	1,681	770,815	77,306	38.3	44.8
1995	1,845,212	0	103,335	995,374	1,343	683,662	61,498	37.1	42.8
1996	1,786,770	2,645	113,027	936,140	1,886	671,521	61,551	37.6	43.9
1997	1,505,145	3,015	97,320	736,519	2,072	605,492	60,727	40.3	47.4
1998	1,520,538	4,602	95,990	698,134	3,828	655,151	62,833	43.2	50.6
1999	1,528,217	8,079	105,819	683,597	4,001	662,302	64,419	43.6	51.4
2000	1,612,826	23,155	156,525	676,141	3,816	684,244	68,945	43.0	52.6
2001	1,748,974	85,113	205,290	692,196	3,134	695,069	68,172	41.8	52.3
2002	1,935,631	237,788	279,693	728,841	2,609	629,193	57,507	37.1	48.4
Under age 18									
1992	376,812	0	16,695	148,221	103	204,083	7,710	54.2	58.8
1993	500,676	0	18,788	240,668	135	232,344	8,741	46.4	50.0
1994	530,538	0	16,897	311,142	147	194,650	7,702	36.7	39.4
1995	491,638	0	14,364	306,307	92	163,887	6,988	33.3	35.8
1996	457,057	197	13,532	291,085	86	144,653	7,504	31.7	34.3
1997	334,975	188	10,906	195,570	69	121,411	6,831	36.3	39.6
1998	338,592	314	10,904	182,345	74	137,590	7,365	40.7	44.3
1999	345,067	567	11,898	181,998	68	142,724	7,812	41.4	45.3
2000	355,477	1,984	15,775	178,217	64	151,475	7,962	42.9	47.2
2001	375,944	8,419	18,917	176,863	59	163,666	8,020	44.5	49.2
2002	408,260	24,395	22,893	183,769	52	169,152	7,999	44.1	49.1

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 53.

Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by age and year of application, 1992–2002—Continued

Year	Total	Pending final decision	Technical denials ^a	Medical decisions				Award rate ^b (percent)	Allowance rate ^c (percent)
				Denials		Allowances			
				Medical	Subsequent nonmedical ^d	Awards	Subsequent denials ^e		
<i>Aged 18–64</i>									
1992	1,451,417	0	117,675	593,455	1,451	656,374	82,462	45.2	55.4
1993	1,547,527	0	122,364	696,934	1,463	646,157	80,609	41.8	51.0
1994	1,482,503	0	106,181	730,012	1,529	575,346	69,435	38.8	46.8
1995	1,351,903	0	88,839	688,618	1,244	518,862	54,340	38.4	45.4
1996	1,277,604	2,444	87,869	644,414	1,534	487,853	53,490	38.3	45.6
1997	1,135,602	2,821	78,303	539,865	1,454	460,302	52,857	40.6	48.7
1998	1,133,015	4,282	76,709	513,732	1,858	482,548	53,886	42.8	51.0
1999	1,133,722	7,501	83,733	500,272	1,540	485,234	55,442	43.1	51.9
2000	1,208,866	21,151	127,968	496,900	1,417	501,414	60,016	42.2	53.0
2001	1,322,450	76,613	169,179	514,444	1,144	501,774	59,296	40.3	52.1
2002	1,464,892	213,043	230,840	544,165	782	427,429	48,633	34.1	46.6

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Disability Research File, 100 percent data.

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2003. Data for the hearing level or above are current through September 2003.

Because a number of applications remain pending for more recent years, the award and allowance rates will change over time. Cases can be pending at the initial or appellate levels and can include either medical or technical issues.

Includes decisions for SSI-only applications and applications for both Social Security and SSI. Does not include Social Security-only applications.

- a. Applications denied for nonmedical reasons so no decision was made on severity of impairment.
- b. Rate determined by dividing awards by all applications minus pending claims for that year.
- c. Rate determined by dividing medical allowances by all medical decisions for that year.
- d. Applications denied for nonmedical reasons after a decision was made that applicant did not meet the medical severity criteria for disability benefits.
- e. Applications denied for nonmedical reasons after a decision was made that applicant met the medical severity criteria for disability benefits.
- f. Includes applicants aged 65 or older.

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